viability of the Corporation. The lending rates of HUDCO are therefore more concessional than other housing finance institutions. Lending norms including rates of interest for banks are prescribed by Reserve Bank of India. The lending rate for LIC are fixed by it. In respect of housing finance companies (HFCs) including LIC Housing Finance Limited, housing loan eligible for refinance from the National Housing Bank (NHB) are governed by the uniform norms and interest rates laid down by the National Housing Bank. These rates are exclusive of interest tax.

Financing pattern for HUDCO schemes and NHB refinance scheme are given in the Annexure. (See Appendix CLXIII, Annexure No. 29).

Creation and utilisation of irrigation potential

1586. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a gap between the creation and utilisation of irrigation potential in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cumulative gap between creation and utilisation of irrigation potential till the end of Seventh Plan Period was 8.32 million hectares.

(c) the Government is implementing the Command Area Development Programme for reducing the gap between potential created and utilised and has also taken a series of measures for improving water management practices to bridge the gap. In addition, the States have also been asked to re-appraise the figures of potential created in order to correct over-reporting, if any.

Subansiri Multipurpose project

1587. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present position of the Subansiri Multipurpose project ;

(b) by when the construction of the project is likely to be started ; and

(c) whether Government of Arunachal Pradesh has agreed upon for the project ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c) The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has not agreed for taking up the Project. It will be necessary to complete the on-going surveys and investigations and sanction the project. Before starting the construction work it will be also necessary to get the concurrence of the Arunachal Pradesh.

Flood forecast in Assam

1588. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to forecast flood in Assam;

(b) whether the Central Water Commission has been modernised for this purpose ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) In addition to the existing net-work of 23 stations to forecast floods in Assam, it is proposed to set up 11 more stations in a phased manner.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Benefit to flood affected people in Assam

1589. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any benefit has been derived by the flood affected people from the